

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

3443 ROUTIER ROAD, SUITE A . SACRAMENTO, CA 95827-3098

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Contact: Alexander MacDonald, Senior Engineer

Phone: (916) 255-3025

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CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER BOARD WORKSHOP SCHEDULED ON AEROJET GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION ISSUES

A public workshop will be held Tuesday, April 22, regarding the discovery of perchlorate, a rocket fuel component, on and west of the Aerojet-General Corporation site in Rancho Cordova. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board will conduct the workshop beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the hearing room of the Integrated Waste Management Board, 880 Cal Center Drive (off Folsom Blvd).

The workshop will focus on technical information regarding the contamination and progress on the delineation, containment, and treatment of the perchlorate plume. Perchlorate was discovered in seven water supply wells in February. The discovery was made as tests were conducted to determine the extent of the groundwater contamination coming from the Rancho Cordova facilities. The wells were removed from service and Aerojet is working closely with water suppliers and regulatory agencies to replace the water supply lost by the closure of the wells.

Regional Board Chairman Ed Schnabel encourages the public and concerned agencies to attend the workshop and provide constructive input on the perchlorate issue.

When the existing groundwater treatment facilities at Aerojet were constructed, perchlorate was not anticipated to be a chemical of concern. Therefore, the facilities were not designed to remove this chemical. Aerojet has now completed a study to determine perchlorate treatment methods and construction of a treatment facility will begin this fall.

Aerojet is currently under a Cleanup and Abatement Order issued by the Regional Board in October 1996. This Order requires Aerojet to evaluate and provide necessary treatment for perchlorate at its groundwater treatment facilities. Information received at the April 22 workshop will assist the Board in determining potential revisions to the Order to require containment and treatment of the off-site perchlorate plume once the extent has been determined.

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